

# BULLETIN

## CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

NEW SERIES, VOL. IV, No. 8

OCTOBER 15, 1925

*"Emphasis upon child welfare may be termed the long view of social welfare."*—FOREWORD, THE ANNALS.

*"It is one of the most encouraging indications of the direction in which our civilization is moving that the degree of wisdom and maturity of a community is being judged more and more by the manner in which it deals with its childhood."*—BERNARD GLUECK, M.D.

### SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Dallas, Texas, will this year be host to the Southwestern Regional Conference of the Child Welfare League of America on November 9 and 10. The activity of the committee in charge of the program has resulted in a list of most interesting topics, ranging from the relationship of child guidance clinics to work done for children by non-professional groups, such as fraternal orders, and the way this may be knit into the general scheme of welfare. Institutional management and policies will be discussed, as will also the importance of state action in child-care in the Southwest. Problems incident to parentage outside of wedlock will be discussed from the angle of conditions in the Southwest. The final program will shortly be published and distributed.

### THE CREED

One of our enclosures is the Creed recently issued by the League as a succinct statement of child life essentials. Papers in various parts of the country were sufficiently struck by the statements therein to feature it prominently. It should express for each member what his state or community ought to afford children, and forms a program by which the community may guide its plans of further development.

### WHAT SHOULD FOSTER PARENTS KNOW ABOUT THE CHILDREN THEY ADOPT?

In view of the impression of child-placing agencies that many foster parents desire to know little or nothing of the background of a child whom they are considering for adoption it is of great interest to receive from a man and woman in a middle western city a questionnaire which they are sending out to organizations to which

they have applied for a child. This couple has already adopted a child who is now three years old. They plan to adopt other children till their family numbers six. The interesting variation in their approach to the problem from that of many other prospective foster parents is that they insist upon a complete family and personal history of any suggested child and in order that it may be understood exactly what they mean by "complete" they have drawn up a seven-page typewritten questionnaire specifying the exact facts of which they wish to be informed. This questionnaire assumes a much higher standard of case study than many child-placing agencies have yet attained. It is divided into four sections dealing with the history of (1) The Mother; (2) The Father; (3) Relatives other than parents; and (4) The Child. The questions asked on these sections are too detailed for complete enunciation here, but some of those asked about the mother of the child are illustrative of the rest.

#### "Health

- (a) General health now and during childhood.
- (b) Acute infectious diseases.
- (c) Tested for venereal disease.
- (d) Epilepsy.

#### "Mental Condition

- (a) Evidence of feeble-mindedness, insanity, or emotional instability.
- (b) Unusual gifts or abilities.
- (c) Parents' account of disposition and behavior as a child.
- (d) Amount of schooling.
- (e) Teachers' account of school progress, aptitudes, interests, achievements.

#### "Industrial History

- (a) What positions have been held now and formerly.
- (b) Employer's opinion of worker's character, ability, and intelligence.

#### "If the child is illegitimate

- (a) What is the mother's own explanation of her going wrong?
- (b) Can the child's grandparents throw any light on her behavior?
- (c) What is the type of her friends?
- (d) What is her attitude toward the father now?
- (e) Does she love her baby?
- (f) Does she want to keep it?
- (g) If so, what are her reasons for giving it up?"

The section on Relatives Other Than Parents specifies a fairly complete personal history of maternal and

paternal grandparents and each aunt and uncle. The questionnaire as a whole presupposes that agencies will be able to furnish a family history through two generations, with detailed and authentic personal histories of the individuals whose lives most directly influence the heredity and development of the child, and in addition an exact and detailed personal history of the child himself. It establishes a precedent of intelligent caution on the part of the "ultimate consumer" in the child-placing field that if it were only more typical would exert pressure on agencies of low standard to improve the quality of their work. It is unlikely, however, that many prospective foster parents will exact as high a level of achievement unless agencies themselves educate them as to what they ought to know of the family and personal history of a child whom they wish to take as their own. If child-placing agencies themselves knew as much as this mid-western couple wish to know, we wonder whether so many children would be placed for adoption. Would not complete knowledge of all the factors in a case frequently suggest other plans more just to parents, child, and foster parents than permanent placement of the child in a family not his own?

#### FROM A SOUTHERN MEMBER

"It is quite evident that there is a movement among child welfare workers to give new emphasis to the importance of rearing children among their own kin. This has not seemed to be regarded as an important principle in past years. The idea has been to take a child, separate him from his own people, make a break so complete that he could never get in touch with them again, and let his foster parents adopt him and bring him up as their own. Or else the child was brought to an institution and it was demanded that all right to him be surrendered by legal signature. Gradually there has come into the minds of many of our foremost thinkers upon the subject a realization that this was all abnormal. In the development of the idea of rendering assistance in a financial way to a mother that she might bring up her own children herself there has grown the principle that this is perfectly sane and normal and that the whole method is in contrast with the abnormality of the other. For ourselves, we welcome the advent of the principle and hope it will prevail. The tide of sentiment in favor of Mothers' Aid is evidently rising in a steady way. We should not be in the least surprised if within a few years methods of child care should change to such an extent that dependent children shall be largely cared for by their own close blood kin. It would be difficult to controvert the sanity of the plan."—THE CONNIE MAXWELL, September, 1925.

#### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNDERTAKES CHILD WELFARE

The Assembly and Council of the League of Nations last year took over the work formerly carried on by the International Association for the Protection of Chil-

dren, and the first meeting under its auspices was held in May this year. Official representatives were present from ten nations of Central and Western Europe and South America. Miss Grace Abbott, Chief of the Federal Children's Bureau, represented the United States in a consultative capacity. Two committees were created—one to deal with traffic in women and children, and the other with child welfare. Miss Abbott has made the following statement:

"It was generally agreed by the committee that the most useful function which the League can perform in this field is to assemble and make available to experts in child welfare the facts about present child-welfare conditions and about methods that have been found possible and practical in different countries. The method of work, it was decided, should be (1) the assembling and analyzing of laws and reports, (2) field studies by experts of new pieces of work being done in the various countries, and (3) discussion and consultation by the members of the committee or by groups of experts assembled for that purpose. For the first year the Committee will undertake the following program:

- "(1) A study of the laws relating to the protection of life and health in early infancy, the age of consent and the age of marriage, and regulation and restriction of child labor.
- "(2) Preparation of an international convention for the assistance or repatriation of foreign children who are abandoned, neglected, or delinquent.
- "(3) Study of the effect of family allowances on the birth rate and infant mortality rate.
- "(4) The effect of motion pictures on the mental and moral well-being of children."

#### HELPING THE VOLUNTEER

There have recently come to our desk from the Child Welfare Division of the American Legion sample records of a case investigation, record of child's family, personal history of child, investigation of a prospective foster home, supervision blank, letter to references, etc.

Those in charge of the Division are using this method of teaching the local Legion Child Welfare Committees what the various steps are which must be taken in bringing aid to a child.

Actual cases are used, with all identifying information changed. As a result the teaching material is vivid, impressive in its authenticity, and, since the cases have been handled, is clearly within practical possibilities. The Division chiefs are well satisfied with the initial results of the method. They are, of course, referring the Legion members to established agencies, instructing them to use the Confidential Exchange and utilize all local resources. Agencies that have cases of veterans' children for whom they need help ought to keep in mind that they may write to the Child Welfare Division, American Legion Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana, for guidance in working out plans with the local Legion posts. Reciprocity of service is the ideal.



### A WESTERN MENTAL HYGIENE STATION

An article on the Colorado Psychopathic Hospital in the *Mental Hygiene Bulletin* for September, 1925, describes an institution that should be of great help to organizations, schools, and institutions dealing with children. It is an instrument around which services are being built up for the State in general that will have profound effect.

Older communities are not too well equipped with such services in many instances, so that it is not surprising to find quite inadequate provision in newer States. Nevertheless, Colorado has already taken certain steps toward supplying such service. Available to the Public Schools in Denver is the clinic connected with the University of Denver, which is extensively used by the attendance officers whose work is gradually being transformed into that of visiting teachers. Such societies as the Colorado Children's Aid Society also have access to it for service beyond the simple determination of mental levels. In Pueblo there are the beginnings of a psychiatric clinic conducted by doctors from the Hospital for the Insane and from a private sanitarium. In Greeley the Juvenile Court at one time used the psychological facilities of Colorado Teachers' College for such diagnoses.

Such unrelated and struggling beginnings will be greatly aided by the new hospital. Significant of the alertness of those responsible for children to the new opportunity is the evidence furnished by the experience of the traveling clinic, which in six days referred 3 infants, 11 pre-school children, 68 school children, and 8 adults for neuropsychiatric examination.

The inauguration of psychiatric work in a relatively new community confers a real opportunity on those responsible for it in the chance they have to link up and develop the various services: educational, medical, and case work, which have to be woven together with the psychiatric work to achieve the best results. As an educational step relatives of patients at the hospital are invited to lectures twice a month on the meaning, cause, and treatment of mental disorders. We would anticipate special courses for social case workers and also for parents and teachers.

While such a hospital in a new community lacks many coöperating facilities that older communities offer, we believe that this can be more than compensated in the creation of modern work untrammelled by traditional community customs, if the managers see their field as one whole.

### THE YEOMEN CITY OF CHILDHOOD

Many of the members of the League will be interested to know that the Brotherhood of American Yeomen has selected a site for the City of Childhood which was

sought by so many cities throughout the West and Middle West during the last two years. The location selected is very near Elgin, Illinois, and not far from Mooseheart. The description of the property in the *Yeomen Shield* for September makes it very attractive. We believe this development will be interesting from several angles. Like others of the sort, it is stated to be "not an institution," that "home life" will be genuine because not more than twelve to fifteen children are to live in the cottages when they are ready. Knowing the Superintendent, Mr. A. N. Farmer, we believe that all of these things will be striven for with unusual wisdom. Nevertheless, we venture to think that the greatest contribution in service and in development of method that the Yeomen can make is in the field of relationship of the institution to the other sorts of care that the Yeomen are already fostering. In an editorial in the same issue of the *Yeomen Shield* we read:

"This issue of the *Shield* is devoted to the Yeomen Children's Home, which has been officially named, 'The Yeoman City of Childhood' by our directory board. The purchase of this fine Illinois farm is by no means the beginning of the Yeomen's concern for its children. A study of the situation has been in progress many months. Nor are children who are taken to the Home the only ones who will receive attention. Investigation is being made of Yeoman child life throughout our jurisdiction. Whenever and wherever conditions in a Yeoman home are such as to prevent a child from attending school or receiving proper care, those conditions will be improved, if possible, by the Society, by mothers' pension or otherwise. When the child of a Yeoman family becomes a homeless orphan, a good home will be provided, if possible, either by having it adopted, or by an allowance to those who care for it. When these methods fail, the child will be taken to the Home.

"The program is to keep in constant touch with the officers of the Homesteads, or local lodges, in the various states and provinces, who will report children in need. Just the other day a case was reported from Lewistown, N. Y. The parents of Paul Lewellyn, a child three years old, both died recently. They carried small policies in the Yeoman. Very little of the proceeds of these policies were left for the child. Mr. Farmer sent his secretary, Miss Chambers, to Lewistown for the child. She took him to the home of his aunt, Mrs. Fern Heason, of Kansas City. Mr. Heason is a laborer, and unable to wholly support the child. They are worthy people and were glad to have the boy. The Yeomen has arranged a monthly allowance to them. Mr. and Mrs. Heason and their son are Yeomen.

"Fraternal benefit societies are equipped to render this service to children. Such service is the very foundation of fraternalism. It is the outstanding distinction between fraternal and old-line insurance concerns."

Here are laid down certain lines of policy which, if followed, ought to allow the Home to do a distinctive work with children who specially need its services, not merely as a place to reside. We find this the more inter-

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*Executive Director*—C. C. CARSTENS, New York

esting because Mr. Farmer is an authority on education and plans to have the Home equipped with the very best and latest of educational methods. If, then, he is not swamped by having to take too large a number of children suddenly, if the sort of policy described in the editorial is as carefully followed and made even more varied by the use of different types of foster homes under supervision, then the Home will be enabled to conduct a real experiment in the education of children. We understand that it is the intention of the Superintendent to keep most accurate personal, psychological, and achievement records of every child in the Home, so that at the end of a few years it will be possible to evaluate results attained. We hope his Board will allow him sufficient clerical assistance to do this from the very first. Such information will help to dispel the fogs which are so thick about this matter of actual achievement of children from institutions and agencies. Children's workers ought to watch this experiment with attention.

#### A TIMELY SYMPOSIUM ON CHILD WELFARE

Principles are so constantly receiving new interpretation in the field of child welfare that much of the literature must of necessity be in monographs and similar publications less formal than books. Fresher treatment more directly applicable to the day's task often compensates for somewhat less elaborate fulness.

We recommend to those of our members who have not seen it the September volume of the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, "New Values in Child Welfare," in which a number of timely papers are gathered under the editorial supervision of J. Prentice Murphy and James H. S. Bosgard, Professor of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania.

Principles, relationships between child welfare and various social measures, statements of practice, legal questions, are discussed by such persons as Lee K. Frankel, writing on "Elimination of Industrial Diseases," Julia Lathrop on "Federal Safeguards of Child Welfare," Dr. Valeria Parker on "Social Hygiene and the Child," Dr. Bernard Glueck on "The Significance of Mental Hygiene in Child Guidance," and various others.

With this BULLETIN we enclose a reprint of Mr. John S. Bradway's article dealing with methods of making old bequests do modern work. Our readers will remember that Mr. Bradway presented to the Philadelphia courts the brief which brought about the new program

at the J. Edgar Thomson School for Orphan Girls. (See BULLETIN, March 15, 1924.)

In addition to these papers the volume contains the proceedings of the All-Philadelphia Conference of Social Work, which includes papers on housing, recreation, health, public agencies and private, education, and many other factors in the social welfare of children. This section is a good illustration of community stock-taking.

Copies may be had from the office of the *Annals*, 39th St. and Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at \$2.00 for paper-bound, \$2.50 cloth-bound.

#### WHY A CERTAIN MOTHER TAKES BOARDING CHILDREN

She calls it "her venture in social service," and has this to say of her reasons for satisfaction in the work:

"You remember I used to think I would go into teaching, but when I finished high school I married. My husband and I can afford to provide a comfortable home for our two girls, but really, you know, taking care of two children scarcely occupies my time, and with this big house on the outskirts of the village on my hands it seemed to me a shame not to have a bigger family. Besides, my own two little girls were growing selfish having their every want attended to so promptly and they were growing rather narrow too, I thought. They needed more children to play with and children of various kinds and ages. I thought about it for a long time, but I knew that Will could not afford to take children free. We hope to send the girls to college if they wish to go, and now is the time when we can best save toward their education. It did not seem quite fair to take on the added expense of another child; besides, I did not want just one more child, but several. Then one day I happened to meet Miss A., a social worker from a children's agency in Boston, and she and I manage things now.

"Let me see. I have already answered 'why I do it.' I do it for my girls' sakes in order to give them companionship, and for my own sake in order to give me an interesting job, and for the sake, too, if I may say so, though it perhaps sounds conceited, of the homeless little youngsters who are made happier and I hope better by living with me for a while. Miss A. and the child-placing organization behind her explain the 'how I do it.' You see they give me \$4.00 a week for each child and that does cover the extra expense for food and laundry and they provide clothing and the medical care too and share the responsibility. That means a lot, I'll tell you, for if one of the children gets sick or is especially naughty, I don't have to shoulder the whole problem myself but can talk it over with Miss A., who, if she cannot advise me, takes me to some specialist who knows what to do."

"Last winter I attended a course of lectures in Boston that were given especially for foster mothers and I really felt a kind of professional pride in my job. I think the neighbors sort of disapproved at first. So did my husband, but Will is as enthusiastic as I am now.



He says it gives him a chance to work with boys once in a while, and you know how fond of boys he is. Of course, he likes girls too. Really, I guess I don't care much what the neighbors think. They never speak of it any more. I guess they have gotten used to it."

The worker who reports this interesting statement in the Annual Report of the New England Home for Little Wanderers for 1924-1925 makes this honest comment:

"An Annual Report would hardly be complete without giving credit to these women who form so indispensable a part of our organization. We wonder sometimes whether *they* are helping us to do social service for children or whether *we* are the helpers and they are the 'regular staff.'"

Social workers are generally inspired by motives of service; so are those persons who adopt children into their families. But there are other men and women who are not social workers and neither wish nor are able to adopt children whose desire for service ought to be utilized for the benefit of neglected children. One such speaks above.

#### NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

The Children's Bureau, Cleveland, Ohio, finds that, "of the children committed to our care, 55 per cent. show dental abnormalities, largely caries, all of which are in need of immediate attention. This percentage would be much higher if it were not for the dental care received in the Mouth Hygiene Clinics in the Health Stations and in the Cleveland Public and Parochial Schools; by the Dental Dispensaries in the Dental School and various Hospitals; by the practising dentists; and by the Dental Clinics located in the Child-caring Institutions."

Mr. William H. Hodson, formerly Director of the Department of Social Legislation of the Russell Sage Foundation, became Executive Director of the Welfare Council of New York City on October 1. Mr. Hodson's achievements in child welfare are well known to the members of the League, of whose Executive Committee he is a member. His work in coördinating the social efforts of the largest city in the country is the most difficult task of that kind yet attempted and will, without doubt, be of value elsewhere as well.

During the past winter the League responded to an appeal from our Florida member, Mr. Marcus C. Fagg, asking for help as Secretary of the Florida Code Commission in securing material on which to base the drafting and promotion of an adequate body of law. The League placed an experienced worker in the field for an extended period at its own expense to improve the local situation.

Dependency, delinquency, probation, and parole came within the purview of the Commission. While the

Legislature did not pass the laws recommended, the University collaborated in issuing a "Guide to the Laws of Florida Affecting Child Welfare." The agitation for new laws will continue.

#### TONSILS AND ADENOIDS

*Why have Tonsils and Adenoids?* When we think how often it becomes necessary to perform either or both tonsillectomy and adenectomy, naturally we wonder whether or not the tonsils and adenoids really have any need for their existence.

However, today it is believed that the tonsils and adenoids, due to their location at the entrance of the bronchial tubes and lungs, sometimes aid in "catching" bacteria which would cause a bronchitis, pneumonia, tuberculosis, etc. In addition these tissues, perhaps, secrete a substance which passes into the blood stream during fetal and early life, and, by its virtue, influences the body growth and development.

*Why are the Tonsils and Adenoids subject to disease?* Perhaps, after infancy, the tonsils and adenoids lose most of their growth-producing power and act largely as barriers against disease of the lungs: a function that becomes increasingly more important after early infancy. It is beyond this period that the contagious diseases are extremely prevalent. Therefore, due to their function and location, organisms of various kinds enter the tissue at intervals, setting up definite inflammation, either acute or chronic. In this way either acute or chronic tonsillitis presents itself at varying periods in almost all children, and not infrequently in adults.

#### CHILD WELFARE NEWS

A ward for crippled children will be established at North Carolina's State Orthopedic Hospital at Gastonia as the result of a gift of \$15,000 presented to the hospital for that purpose by B. N. Duke, of New York. This sum will build and equip a ward of ten beds and maintain it until the next session of the General Assembly, when State funds for continued maintenance will be asked.

The "mothers' pension" system was introduced in Michigan in 1914. According to the biennial report of the State Welfare Commission, the number of such pensions during the year ended June 30, 1924, was 1,853, the number of children affected was 5,383, and the total amount paid out was \$1,741,656. Sixty-nine per cent. of the allowances were awarded to widows, but deserted wives, divorced women, unmarried mothers, and women whose husbands were insane, paralytic, tubercular, or in institutions also received assistance in the care of their children.

Comparative tables given in the July issue of the

Monthly Labor Review (Washington) show that the number of allowances given in Michigan in 1924 was 50 per cent. greater than the number paid in 1915. The average expenditure per child per week has increased from \$1.15 to \$2.14 in 1924.

Of interest to the Child Welfare League of America is the grant of \$10,000 a year for five years by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Foundation to the University of Toronto for work in the field of child study. Early in 1925 the League staff studied the provisions for child care in Toronto, finding that such study facilities, while existing, need to be coördinated and further developed. We are not informed what weight our findings had in securing the grant, but the new work will aid greatly in carrying out our recommendations for community development to meet the child care needs.

An article on goiter in the September issue of *Hygeia* gives an interesting account of the influence of the thyroid gland on general growth during the prenatal period, infancy and later life, its relationship to sexual development, and the variations in its activity at different periods of life. Iodin is the active principle in the secretion of the thyroid, and its presence in insufficient quantities in the blood-stream causes the overactivity and enlargement of the thyroid gland commonly known as goiter. Iodin is found very largely in sea water, and it is therefore not surprising that goiter is most common in inland regions. Michigan has applied the discovery of the relationship between iodine and aberrations of the thyroid by guaranteeing the sale of no salt within her borders which has not been iodinated. It is hoped by public health authorities that this chemical treatment of a universally used commodity will supply to the population the amount of iodine necessary to maintain normal health.

George R. Bedinger, Executive Director of the Public Charities Association of Pennsylvania, announces the appointment of Arthur Dunham as the new Secretary of the Child Welfare Division of the Association. During the last two years Mr. Dunham has been the executive of the Council of Social Agencies of Newton, Mass. Previous to that time he was Secretary of the Philadelphia Social Service Exchange.

The Wisconsin Child Welfare Special has held successful conferences during the summer in three counties, with an average attendance of 35 babies a day. Throughout Langlade County the Special aroused much interest, and the Red Cross appropriated funds for corrective work for some of the cases needing aid. In Rusk County the county library coöperated by distributing literature on health and making exhibits of

health books at the various places visited. At several of the clinics mothers walked long distances to bring their children, in spite of the hot weather and the fact that it was the busy farm season. Local physicians were frequently interested visitors.

The importance of requiring evidence of age of children entering school for the first time is recognized in a requirement of the Kansas City, Mo., Board of Education relating to children entering kindergartens, and also in a Maryland law to which attention is called in a bulletin sent out by the Maryland State Department of Health. The bulletin calls attention to the Maryland legal requirement that all pupils entering school for the first time shall present satisfactory evidence that they are approximately six years old or over and urges parents to find out whether their children's births have been properly registered.

The municipal authorities of Rome have decided to establish a vocational guidance office with the following functions: To provide information to the children of the four higher school grades on trades and occupations, by means of pamphlets, lectures, moving pictures, and visits to factories and work places; to familiarize the children and their parents with the requirements of the various occupations; and to ascertain the physical and mental fitness of the child. Detailed records, including both mental and physical data, will be kept for each child in the four grades.

It does not cost money to give serious and thorough attention to complaints. If one complaint is made, it is a safe assumption that a good many other persons are affected by the thing complained of, and haven't said anything.—*Better Times*.

Three additional model child-welfare centers are to be created by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, one at Rhondda, and two smaller ones in Dublin. Similar centers are now in operation at Choreditch, Birmingham, Liverpool, and Motherwell.

The most important grant made by the Trust during the year was one for 10,000 pounds sterling toward the purchase of a building in London to be used as a home for boys who have left school and are beginning to work, and as a community center for East London. It is hoped that this experiment, if successful, will be a guide to students of the problem of adolescent boys in the large towns.

#### UNDERSTANDING THE JUNIORS

Not long ago a large city newspaper obtained permission to circularize the boys of the Senior Class in a



metropolitan High School, some 250 in number, on the matter of prohibition. The boys were asked if they thought the prohibition law should stay as it is, or whether it should be modified. All but half a dozen answered directly against modification and to the effect that the present law should stand.

An editorial in the October Journal of Social Hygiene quotes two experienced educators to the same general effect. A school principal characterizes the change from fifteen or twenty years ago as follows:

"I believe that we have more 'Mertons' today than ever before." Then, in explanation, he continued, "'Merton of the Movies,' you will remember, wanted to do 'bigger and better things,' and, in my opinion, a larger portion of boys and girls now have this same slogan in mind than they had a decade ago."

Questioned as to immorality in the schools he flashed out: "Bah! It's mainly in their (the grown-ups) imaginations. During the past five years of my administration I have come across but two instances of sex irregularity requiring drastic action. In one, the girl, who was about to become a mother, married the boy who was responsible for her condition. This may or may not have been the best way out of it, but the parents got together and persuaded the young people that it was."

"In the second instance a young girl was made pregnant by a man more than twice her age, an abortion was performed, and she finally recovered, though weakened in health. The man was not connected in any way with the school and it seems hardly fair to class this second case as a 'high-school immorality.'"

"I don't pretend to say that these two instances are all that have occurred, but I am quite certain that any serious and continued immorality would sooner or later come to my attention. And furthermore, I do not hesitate to express the opinion that the high-school students of today are better moral risks than we were in our day."

A University Professor was equally confident that times have changed for the better. Liquor is harder to get, prostitution is under steady pressure from the police, hotels are constantly supervised. He says, "The students of today have a much better chance to be decent than had those of ten and fifteen years ago, and I am confident that they are taking advantage of it."

Of course such evidence is not conclusive but it falls in with a large stream of similar testimony from persons who have wide contacts with young people. In general they seem to agree that this generation of adults is misunderstanding in its turn the different customs of present youth just as its own elders did thirty years ago.

Of course this is not the whole explanation. We feel keenly that youth today is assaulted, by organized stimulants to instability, precocious sex interest, flippant disrespect of the institutions of society as

**H**AVE you read all of the League's publications? We can supply the following in such numbers as are desired:

**BULLETIN No. 6.**—The Need for Psychological Interpretation in the Placement of Dependent Children, by Jessie Taft, Ph.D.  
Price, Fifteen Cents

**BULLETIN No. 7.**—What Dependent Children Need. Edited by C. V. Williams.  
Price, Twenty-five Cents

**BULLETIN No. 11.**—The Problem of the Unmarried Mother and Her Child, by Ruth I. Workum.  
Price, Fifteen Cents

#### CASE STUDIES—

**No. 1,** Edited by Miss Georgia G. Ralph. The service given by a child-placing agency to a family with three small children where the mother was in need of sanatorium care. In Three Parts.

Price, Thirty Cents (complete)  
Twenty-five or more copies, Twenty-five Cents Each  
**No. 2,** A Study of the Experience of a Nursery School in Training a Child Adopted from an Institution, by Helen T. Woolley, Ph.D.

Price, Twenty-five Cents  
Ten or more copies, Fifteen Cents Each

we never were assaulted. We are frightened in their behalf.

It is not always easy to be patient and understanding. Toward one's own children there is a special responsibility. What is the feeling toward our foster children? They need our understanding even more than our own.

#### ENCLOSURES

(Sent to members of League only)

The enclosures for this month are as follows:

1. Creed of the Child Welfare League of America.
2. September and October issues of "Information Exchange."
3. Reprint entitled "Perpetuating the Spirit of Charitable Bequests for Children Through the Assistance of the Courts," by John S. Bradway.
4. Leaflet of the Florida Children's Home Society.
5. Report of the Associated Medical Clinic of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for 1924.

#### CHANGES FOR DIRECTORY

**KENTUCKY.**—Children's Bureau, Louisville. Arthur H. Taylor, Executive Secretary, to succeed Miss Marian Barney, resigned.

**MARYLAND.**—Maryland Children's Aid Society, Baltimore. Edward H. Cavin, General Secretary.

## INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON ILLEGITIMACY BULLETIN

*President:* MRS. RUTH I. WORKUM, Cincinnati, Ohio.  
*Vice-President:* MR. C. V. WILLIAMS, Chicago, Illinois.  
*Secretary and Treasurer:* MISS ELIZABETH YERXA, Madison, Wis.

### ILLEGITIMACY IN MICHIGAN

Mr. Albert H. Stoneman, General Secretary, Michigan Children's Aid Society, reports:

"To raise the standard of case work done on illegitimacy cases has for years been one of the endeavors of the Michigan Children's Aid Society. To this end every effort has been made to establish agreements with important maternity wards in the state, looking to the verification of the alleged facts given by illegitimate mothers. The largest center of illegitimate births in the state has agreed to clear all cases through the Michigan Children's Aid Society. They also request case work by field representatives of this Society to verify family histories.

"Another very important hospital is considering a similar agreement. Thus one of the most difficult factors in illegitimacy work is being dealt with—the establishment of paternal family history."

The Juvenile Department of the Board of Control of Wisconsin has realized that the articles printed in "The Family" on "Mile-Stones in the Approach to Illegitimacy," by Louise Drury, contain valuable information which the county judges, hospitals and public health nurses throughout the state should have. Copies of these papers have been sent to more than one hundred people throughout the state, and some very interesting comments have been sent in to the Director which makes her feel that people are giving more serious thought to this big problem than ever before. It is recommended that other state departments follow the plan of distributing these very excellent articles to interested people, especially in rural communities.

### ST. LOUIS CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

Following is a copy of the general policy of the Children's Aid Society of St. Louis:

"The new Department of Mothers and Babies hopes to establish a friendly contact with the pregnant unmarried girl and, in behalf of the coming child, to assist her in the following ways:

"1. To make sufficient investigation to be able to refer her to the Maternity Home or the hospital best suited to her needs.

"2. If not a resident of St. Louis, to arrange for her to return to her home or at least to see that the financial burden is borne by her relatives or her own community.

"3. To aid in her own family readjustments so that she may remain in her own home or with relatives when advisable.

"4. To place her in a private boarding home or, if in the early stages of pregnancy, in a wage home where she may assist with the work.

"5. To arrange for proper medical care before, during and after confinement.

"6. To secure legal advice and help in establishing paternity and securing support for the child.

"7. In every possible case to keep the mother and child together by assisting the mother to find work where she may have her baby with her, or a boarding home where she may have the baby cared for during the day, the mother to work out and return at night; or to make such other plan as seems best for the mother, the child and the community.

"8. To assist in her social adjustments and to introduce the girl to agencies offering proper recreational facilities.

"9. In exceptional cases training may be given to increase the mother's earning power, develop her character and add to her value in the industrial world.

"On the bases of ten new cases of illegitimacy per month, the Children's Aid Society is prepared to handle colored cases to the extent of 20 per cent of the total, or two per month. The colored population is about 10 per cent of the city's population."

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

(Inter-City Conference on Illegitimacy)

Individual dues, \$1.00; Group dues, \$5.00, payable to the Treasurer, Juvenile Department, Board of Control, Madison, Wis.